

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

A. WILLIAM LEE

BETTY A. LEE

Claim No. CU -2026

Decision No. CU
2095

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by A. WILLIAM LEE and BETTY A. LEE, and is based upon the asserted loss of \$150.00, sustained in connection with the ownership of a stock interest in Compania Litografica de la Habana, S. A. (Havana Lithographing Company), hereinafter referred to as Havana Lithographing. Claimants have been nationals of the United States since birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

Section 507 of the Act provides, as to assignment of claims, that

(b) The amount determined to be due on any claim of an assignee who acquires the same by purchase shall not exceed (or, in the case of any such acquisition subsequent to the date of the determination, shall not be deemed to have exceeded) the amount of the actual consideration paid by such assignee, or in case of successive assignments of a claim by any assignee.

Claim is presented for an interest in 100 shares of stock issued by the Havana Lithographing Company, evidenced by certificate No. CLHC 26023, issued to claimants in 1961.

The record discloses that Havana Lithographing Company was listed as nationalized by Cuban Law 890, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on October 13, 1960. This corporation was organized under the laws of Cuba and does not qualify as a corporate "national of the United States" defined under Section 502(1)(B) of the Act as a corporation or other legal entity organized under the laws of the United States, or any State, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, whose ownership is vested to the extent of 50 per centum or more in natural persons who are citizens of the United States. In this type of situation, it has been held previously that a stockholder in such a corporation is entitled to file a claim based upon his ownership interest therein. (See Claim of Parke, Davis & Company, Claim No. CU-0180).

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that claimants acquired the above numbered certificates by purchase on

April 18, 1961 for a consideration of \$156.00. The Commission has previously determined that the dollar loss sustained in connection with the ownership of a common stock interest in Havana Lithographing at the time of loss was \$2.51 per share. (See Claim of Central West Company, Claim No. CU-3440.)

Under the provisions of Section 504(a) of the Act, a claimant is required to establish that the claim for any loss has been continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date of filing with the Commission. The loss occurred prior to claimants' acquisition of the shares. Claimants have been unable to obtain information or evidence to establish the nationality of the owner of the securities on the date of loss, and to establish continuous United States ownership of the securities until the date on which claimants acquired them.

Evidence of record before the Commission discloses that securities of the type subject of this claim were almost entirely owned and traded by persons or firms having addresses in the United States. The Commission has considered whether an inference may be justified that the claimed securities were continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date on which purchased by the claimants, and in the absence of evidence to the contrary, has concluded that the securities were continuously so owned. (See Claim of the Executors of the Estate of Julius S. Wikler, Deceased, Claim No. CU-2571).

The Commission finds that claimants, upon their purchase of the securities, succeeded to the loss sustained by the assignor of the claimed securities, and concludes that they succeeded to and suffered a loss in the total amount of \$156.00 as a result of the nationalization of the Havana Lithographing Company on October 13, 1960.

The Commission has decided that in payment of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be allowed at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement. (See Claim of Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644.)

The Commission concludes, however, that the amount of loss sustained by claimants herein shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from April 18, 1961, the date on which claimants acquired this claim, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that A. WILLIAM LEE and BETTY A LEE jointly suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$156.00) with interest at 6% per annum from April 18, 1961 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

JUL 24 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton
Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

Sidney Freidberg

Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims. Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)

NOTICE TO TREASURY: The above-referenced securities may not have been submitted to the Commission or if submitted, may have been returned; accordingly, no payment should be made until claimant establishes retention of the securities or the loss here certified.